GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1297
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILE TELEPHONES SERVICE
Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the population and the area covered under Mobile Telephone service in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the proposals under consideration of the Government regarding expansion and development of Mobile Telephone service in the country including Maharashtra; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Sir, 297 Licenses for providing mobile telephone service in various parts of the country have been issued till date which include 13 licesces in Maharashtra service area and 12 licenses in Mumbai service area. For the purpose of providing mobile services, the country is divided into 22 service areas encompassing entire geographical coverage and population. As on 30th September, 2008, the total number of mobile phones working in the country are 31,53,11,901 which included 2,50,47,312 mobile subscribers in Maharashtra service area and 1,58,07,209 mobile phones in Mumbai service area. As on 30.09.2008, the All India mobile phone teledensity is 27.32 per hundred population. The mobile phone teledensity in Maharashtra service area is 27.60% and in Mumbai service area 79.92%. As per the terms and conditions of the Mobile Service Licenses, the licensees have to cover atleast 10% of the district Headquarters (DHQs) in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee is permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of district Headquarter/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee depending on their business decision. there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.